



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Istook Votes to Protect Our Ports**

*Washington, D.C.* – Rep. Ernest Istook (R- Warr Acres) voted today to safeguard America's citizens through increased security at our nation's ports.

**"Today we passed important legislation aimed at securing our ports against terrorist attack,"** said Istook. **"This bill provides for enhancing security at U.S. Ports, heightened tracking and protecting of containers in transit to the United States, and better methods for preventing overseas threats from ever reaching out shores."**

H.R. 4954, the Security and Accountability for Every (SAFE) Port Act, is based on a layered security strategy that builds on existing initiatives to improve port and cargo security both abroad and here at home.

Among other enhancements, the SAFE Port Act requires:

- The deployment nuclear and radiological detection systems at twenty-two U.S. seaports by the end of FY07, covering 98% of incoming maritime containers
- Provides \$400 million per year in risk-based funding through a dedicated Port Security Grant Program to harden U.S. ports against terrorist attacks.
- Fully-funds the recently-established Office of Domestic Nuclear Detection at DHS.
- Improves the Automated Targeting System (ATS), which identifies high risk containers before they reach American soil
- Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to refuse high risk cargo the host nation refuses to inspect.
- Strengthens the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program, which creates partnerships between DHS and the private sector to establish transparency in the supply chain, enhance security measures, and encourage information sharing
- Requires DHS to continuously evaluate and report annually on emerging radiological detection and imaging technology for cargo and measure those new technologies against real world performance criteria